

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): Transport system, comprising
 - a transport track (9) formed by at least one running rail (1, 2),
 - ~~at least one~~several vehicles (3) to be transported, and
 - a running-rolling device connected to each vehicle and arranged on the said at least one running rail so as to be able to run-roll thereon, the vehicle (3) provided with the running-rolling device having a rolling resistance to running on the said at least one rail (1, 2),
 - the said transport track (8, 9) having ~~at least one~~several descending track section sections, (14, 14', 14'', 14''') each descending track section having sufficient a slope so that is sufficient to overcome the said rolling resistance to running of each vehicle is overcome, each vehicle thus running-rolling on the said at least one descending section by simple gravity, characterised in that the transport track has a starting point (10) and an arrival point (11), said arrival point having an altitude-elevation equal to or higher than the starting point, and comprises several sections of descending track (14', 14'', 14''')
 - in that between said descending track sections which there is in each case arranged a section of ascending track (12', 12'', 12''') on which each vehicle provided with the running-rolling device is driven by a driving device,
 - in that the slope of each section of descending track being is insufficient to produce a continuous acceleration of the said at least onesaid vehicle vehicles (3) on the said at least one

running rail (1,2), each vehicle having there a substantially constant speed, balanced by at which
gravity is in balance with the said rolling resistance of each vehicle to running with added to
other resistances resistances, added, such as including the air resistance to air of the vehicle (3),
and

in that the transport track (9) having has a route along which no vehicle at any point is
raised higher than the altitude elevation that the vehicle would have at this point on the a
transport track having a single descending section (14) between the starting point and the arrival
point, provided with the above-mentioned same slope as said several descending track sections
between the starting point and the arrival point, and

in that said transport system it comprises means for balancing the speed of two successive
vehicles on said descending track sections, so as to maintain a distance between said two
successive vehicles, said means for balancing the speed of two successive vehicles on said
descending track sections comprising at least one endless cable returned freely in a loop by
pulleys along the transport track and clamps arranged on each vehicle to grip the cable and drive
the vehicle during transport.

2. (original): Transport system according to claim 1, characterised in that the above-mentioned slope is at least 3/1000, preferably at least 4/1000.

3. (currently amended): Transport system according to claim 1, characterised in that the above-mentioned slope of said several descending track sections is constant over each descending section.

4. (previously presented): Transport system according to claim 1, characterised in that the constant speed of the said at least one vehicle on the descending sections is around 30 to 50 km/h, preferably around 40 km/h.

5. (currently amended): Transport system according to claim 1, characterised in that the driving devices drive each vehicle on the ascending track sections at a speed equal to the above-mentioned said substantially constant speed of the vehicle on the descending track sections.

6. (currently amended): Transport system according to claim 1, characterised in that the transport track comprises, at least on some sections one section, support means (6) for an overhead rail (1, 2) and in that each vehicle is suspended from this overhead rail by the running rolling device.

7. (currently amended): Transport system according to claim 1, characterised in that the said at least one vehicle is a container (3) to be transported which has a volume with standard overall dimensions, and in that the running rolling device is fixed to the container in such a manner that it can be folded in into the above mentioned volume of the container, in the idle position of the when the container is at rest.

8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended): Transport system according to claim 8, claim 1, characterised in that the means of balancing the speed of two successive vehicles comprise at least one endless cable returned freely in a loop by pulleys along the transport track and clamps arranged on each vehicle to grip the cable and drive the latter vehicle during its transportation transport.

10. (currently amended): Use of A method of using a transport system according to claim 1, for transporting vehicles over long distances making parsimonious use parsimoniously of the potential energies energy, comprising the steps of a reading of the a geographic relief between the departure point and the arrival point of the transport track of said transport system and a determination determining a of the route of for said the transport track on the basis of this

reading, so that as to minimize the number of it has the said slope on the said descending sections and a minimum number of ascending sections on said transport track.

11. (new) Transport system according to claim 1, wherein said starting point and arrival point are different, so that the transport track does not form a closed loop.